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NOTES, ABSTRACTS, AND REVIEWS.

CLIMATIC OR CALENDAR YEAR?

A board composed of Central Office officials of the Weather Bureau was appointed on June 15, 1921, to be known as the Board On Rainfall Observations and Severe Local Storms. Among the subjects considered by that board was that of printing statistics of rainfall on the basis of a climatic rather than the calendar year. The Board endeavored by several means to ascertain the views upon such a change that were held by engineers and other users of rainfall data. Finally it was deemed advisable to circulate a questionnaire through the medium of the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW. The questionnaire was inclosed in the July, 1921, REVIEW. To date about 1 per cent of the questionnaires have been returned. A poll of the replies shows that no definite conclusion was reached, the number of votes being very equally divided between the affirmative and the negative. The board therefore concludes that for the United States proper, excluding California, no change from present practice is desirable. For California the data will be published on the basis both of a calendar and a climatic year. The latter to begin with July 1 and to end with June 30.

The discussion brought out no new viewpoints; a number of those opposed to the change seemed to adopt the idea expressed by a member of the engineering staff of a western university, as follows:

> What we desire in the Government publication is the record, and that is best preserved and referred to by the calendar year. If any engineer or meteorologist wants to make any arbitrary division into "climatic" years it would seem a simple matter to do so.

—*A. J. H.*

LONG-RANGE FORECASTS IN ENGLAND.

So far as is known, the first official and authentic forecast of weather for as long a period as two weeks was made in September, 1921, by the British Meteorological Office. On page 279, of the *Meteorological Magazine* for November, 1921, is to be found a note by E. V. Newnham, in which this forecast is discussed. The *Meteorological Magazine*, in introducing the note, mentions that two points of importance should be emphasized: "(1) That it is not at present possible to extend the 'Further Outlook' to such long intervals as a general rule, and (2) That the method adopted is the systematic use of well-classified experience."

Mr. Newnham gives a figure showing the barometric distribution on the morning of September 26, 1921. There was a large anticyclone, classified by Gold as Type VIIIB, over the British Isles. "This," he says, "is obviously a very favorable type for dry weather at any time of year. Additional reasons existed for expecting prolonged fair weather on this occasion, such as would not generally apply to other cases of Type VIIIB * * *." Upon examination of past records when this type of anticyclone occurred, in September, it was found that only once in the seven occurrences since 1907 did the break-up of the weather control occur in less than a fortnight. Upon this basis the following forecast was issued on September 26:

> Mainly fair and dry weather is probable for the next week or 10 days over the southern half of the Kingdom.

Two days later this was supplemented by the statement:

> Over the eastern and central parts of England, south of the Humber, the chances are distinctly against a definite break up of these conditions within the next fortnight.

In discussing what actually happened, the writer shows that the 10-day forecast was not wholly successful for part of the area referred to, but that the 14-day forecast for the eastern counties was successful.

He concludes:

> The large area covered by the working charts of to-day should make it possible to attempt further long-period forecasts of the general character of the weather from time to time. It seems not unreasonable to hope for greater success with these than with regular 24-hour forecasts of the detailed character of the weather, since the minor eccentricities of the weather, which so often cause failure in a 24-hour forecast, become relatively unimportant during the longer period.

In this connection it is interesting to note that in Mr. E. H. Bowie's chapter on "Long Range Weather Forecasts," in *Weather Forecasting in the United States*, page 347, he points out the possibility of using HIGHS in this manner. "When these conditions of pressure distribution," he says, "become firmly established the forecaster is able to take advantage of them and thus to extend the outlook generally as much as a week beyond the 36-hour period of the morning forecast."—*C. L. M.*

NOCTURNAL RADIATION ON MOUNT BLANC.

By A. BOUTARIC.

[Abstracted from *Comptes Rendus*, Dec. 19, 1921, pp. 1393-1394.]

This paper is based upon observations of nocturnal radiation made on Mount Blanc (4,350 meters altitude) between July 30 and August 7, 1921. These observations with which only those made by Anders Ångström on Mount Whitney, Calif. (4,420 meters altitude), are comparable, were made with an Ångström actinometer. From his observations the author computed the following values of the ratio between the nocturnal radiation and the radiation of a black surface at the absolute temperature θ_0, where $\theta_0 = t_0 + 273$, t_0 being observed:

Aug. 1	0.400
2	.326
5	.415
6	.379

When the measures made by registering instruments were studied, it appears that the maximum occurs a little after sunset and decreases slightly through the night. This observation agrees with others by the author at Montpellier and on the Pic du Midi, much lower stations. This result is contrary to that obtained by LoSurdo at Naples and Exner on the Sonnblick.

Contrary to the general opinion, nocturnal radiation at great altitudes is not exceptionally intense, and is of the same order of magnitude as lower stations. The observations on Mount Blanc give practically the same result as those by Ångström on Mount Whitney.—*C. L. M.*